

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 /184 W

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R 261225Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3813

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS ANKARA 3169

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EIND, ENRG, TU, IR

SUBJ: TURKISH/IRAN NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROPOSAL

REF: ANKARA 5596, JULY 1973

1. FRESH INTEREST HAS BEEN AROUSED IN TURKEY REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINE TO CARRY NATURAL GAS FROM IRAN THROUGH TURKEY EN ROUTE TO ITALY AND GERMANY. PROJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED HERE OVER PAST YEAR, BUT UNTIL RECENTLY LOCAL SOURCES HAD LITTLE OR NO INDICATION OF IRANIAN GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN HAVING PIPELINE PASS THROUGH TURKISH TERRITORY. HOWEVER, TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER TURAN GUNES IN BUDGET DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 15 SAID IT WAS "99 PERCENT CERTAIN PIPELINE WOULD PASS THROUGH TURKEY." GUNES REPORTED THAT DURING HIS AUDIENCE WITH SHAH A FEW WEEKS AGO SHAH SAID THE "PIPELINE WOULD MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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PROBABLY PASS THROUGH TURKEY."

2. ITALIAN-GERMAN-FRENCH CONSORTIUM (I.E. ENI, RUHRGAS, AND GAZ DE FRANCE) REPRESENTATIVES VISITED ANKARA FOR MEETINGS APRIL 24-25 WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY, MINISTRY OF ENERGY, AND TURKISH STATE PETROLEUM COMPANY. REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. -BELGIAN CONSORTIUM (I.E. EL PASO NATURAL GAS, SOPEX, AND DISTRIGAZ) WILL BE IN ANKARA NEXT WEEK FOR SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS. (REF STATE 79741 - NOTAL - EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BELGIAN EMBASSY HERE REGARDING VISIT OF U.S. - BELGIAN GROUP, AND SENIOR OFFICERS WILL MEET WITH EL PASO REPRESENTATIVES WHEN THEY COME.)

3. DIRECTOR, BILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HIKMET OZKAN, TOLD ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT VISITS OF THE TWO CONSORTIUM GROUPS ARE ONLY TO GET ACQUAINTED. WHOLE MATTER IS STILL IN VERY EARLY STAGE. THERE IS NOT YET A DEFINITE PIPELINE "PROJECT". HE SAID GOT VERY MUCH INTERESTED, HOWEVER, IN HAVING PROJECT CROSS TURKISH TERRITORY, AND SHAH'S STATEMENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER VERY ENCOURAGING. GOT NOW QUITE CONFIDENT THAT PIPELINE, IF IT IS TO BE BUILT, WILL PASS THROUGH TURKEY ON ONE OF TWO ROUTES: (A) TO TERMINAL AT PORA OF ISKENDERUN WHERE LIQUEFACTION PLANT WILL BE NECESSARY OR (B) ALL THE WAY ACROSS TURKEY, UNDER DARDANELLES, AND THROUGH GREECE TO ITALY AND GERMANY. IN FIRST CASE, SECTION THROUGH TURKEY WOULD BE 850 KILOMETERS AND IN SECOND CASE 1,700 KILOMETERS. COST OF CONSTRUCTION IN TURKEY (INCLUDING ALSO LIQUEFACTION PLANT AT ISKENDRUN ROUTE) IN EITHER CASE WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY \$2.5 BILLION. PIPELINE WOULD CONSIST OF TWO PARALLEL PIPES EACH 48 INCHES IN DIAMETER. QZKAN SAID GOT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN TURKEYISH SECTION OF PIPELINE, BUT HE THOUGHT ITS SHARE WOULD BE MUCH LESS THAN 50 PERCENT. HE STRESSED THAT THERE IS NO AGREEMENT YET WITH THE GOI REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPELINE AND THAT THERE ARE NO COMMITMENTS TO ANY GROUP OF FIRMS. MACOMBER

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